

Partnership for Sustainable Communities



Lee Sobel, US EPA

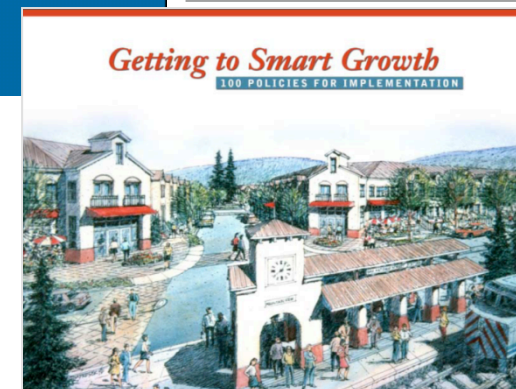
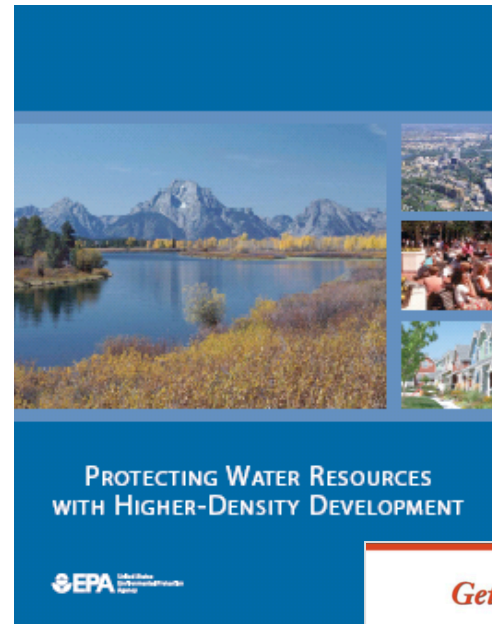
Overview

- Smart Growth Program
- HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- EPA's New Office of Sustainable Communities
- New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
- Regional Partnership Activities and Opportunities
- Technical Assistance: Louisville, Kentucky

EPA's Smart Growth Program

Changing the Conversation

- We created and sustain the Smart Growth Network
- We created and sponsor the annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference,
- We fund the go-to source for all things smart growth, www.smartgrowth.org.
- National Award for Smart Growth Achievement— since 2002



EPA's Smart Growth Program

Helping the Willing

- Technical assistance and other support to over 220 governors, state and local governments, and other stakeholders.
 - Since 2005, 325 applications received, 27 selected
- Develop tools that address widespread problems.
 - Essential Code Fixes for Urban and Suburban Communities
 - Municipal Water Quality Scorecard
- Governor's Institute
 - Joint program with the National Endowment for the Arts
 - 10 Governors since 2006



Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal discusses Wyoming's future growth and development at the "Building the Wyoming We Want" conference, sponsored by the Governors' Institute on Community Design in Casper in January 2008.

EPA's Smart Growth Program

Changing the Rules

➤ Federal

- **Air:** Emission reductions from smart growth can now be used for required air quality plans.
- **Stormwater:** State permit language recognizes the water quality benefit from specific smart growth land use strategies.

➤ National Standard Setters

- **School siting:** Worked with partner organizations to remove "minimum acreage requirements" from national school siting guidelines.
- **Institute for Transportation Engineers:** Developed new guidelines for trip generation from infill (vs. greenfield) sites.



Proposed alternative (right) in Flemington, NJ, which was rejected by NJDOT because funding rules prevented them from paying for local street improvements

Partnership for Sustainable Communities

Mission: To meet the President's challenge for our agencies to work together to encourage and fully assist rural, suburban, and urban areas to build sustainable communities, and to make sustainable communities the leading style of development in the United States.

The Partnership is focused on ensuring that federal investments, policies, and actions do not subsidize sprawl and, instead, support development in more efficient and sustainable locations.



Partnership for Sustainable Communities

Guiding Principles

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
3. Enhance economic competitiveness.
4. Support existing communities.
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment.
6. Value communities and neighborhoods.



Partnership for Sustainable Communities

President Barack Obama: July 13, 2009



“For too long, federal policy has actually encouraged sprawl and congestion and pollution, rather than quality public transportation and smart, sustainable development...

And that's why we've created a new interagency partnership on sustainable communities, led by Shaun Donovan, Ray LaHood and Lisa Jackson. And by working together, their agencies can make sure that when it comes to development -- housing, transportation, energy efficiency -- these things aren't mutually exclusive; they go hand in hand. And that means making sure that affordable housing exists in close proximity to jobs and transportation. That means encouraging shorter travel times and lower travel costs. It means safer, greener, more livable communities.”

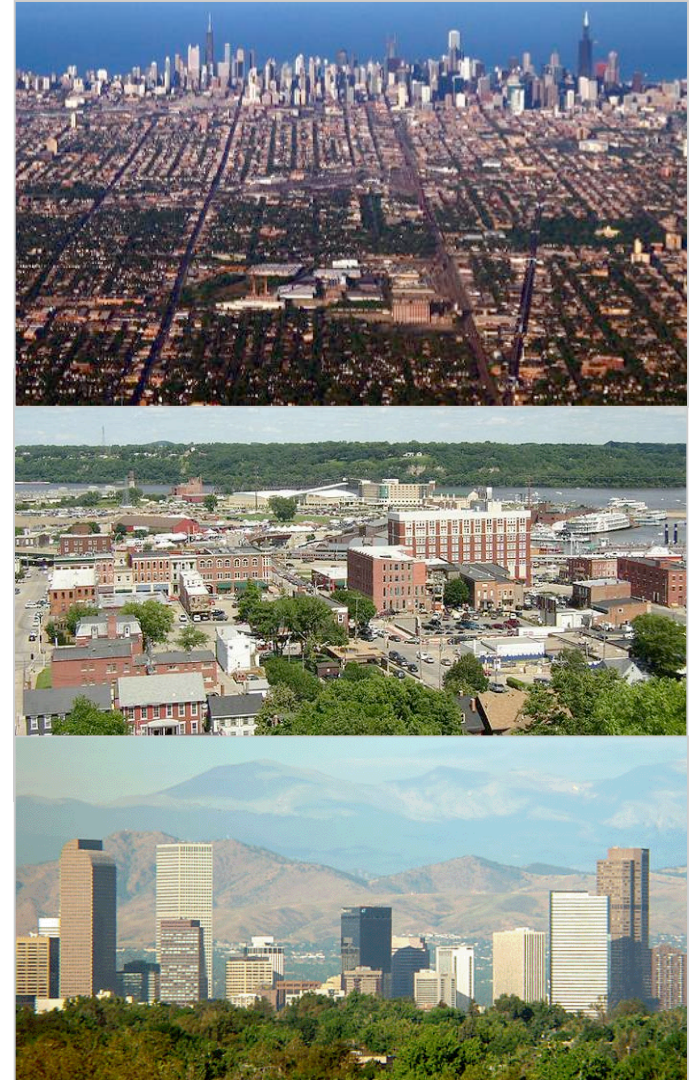


Partnership for Sustainable Communities

-- President Barack Obama

Progress To Date

- Three-Agency and White House Tour
 - Outreach to key stakeholders
 - Convened meeting with all 10 EPA Regions with identified Partnership managers and staff contacts.
 - State Summit (34 states) and other “listening sessions”
- HUD policy change on Brownfields allowing program funds to be spent on mortgages for multi-family units built on former Brownfield sites that have been cleaned and that include mixed income developments
- Executive Order on Federal Facilities (**EO 13514**). Partnership work to ensured strong language on location



Commitments the Administrator has Made

Environmental Justice

- EJ and equitable development considerations are incorporated throughout all Partnership activities.

Office of Water

➤ EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund

- EPA will provide technical assistance to three states to explore flexibility they have to achieve these goals.
- Develop SRF best practices
- Develop CW and DW SRF Sustainability Policy
- Requested OW analysis on our statutory authority limits on SRF

➤ EPA Urban Waters Initiative

- Promote equitable redevelopment adjacent to urban waters, re-invest in existing infrastructure, improve water quality, and revitalize waterfront neighborhoods – especially those.

➤ Pilot program in Chicago

- Measure the contributions of green stormwater management approaches to determine if, and how, these approaches could be considered in meeting a city's consent decree.

Commitments the Administrator has Made

Air

➤ **Denver -- Rewarding Smart Land Use Policies in SIPs**

- Develop a regional scenario tied to specific land use policies and apply to regional transportation air quality modeling to determine if, and how, to account for associated emission reductions the region's SIP process.

Brownfields

➤ **Brownfield Pilot – “Sustainable Sites”**

- Five transit-oriented sites to be selected to receive technical assistance.
- Sought locations where HUD and DOT also have investments.
- Focus on disadvantaged, economically distressed, and rural communities.

Smart Growth Program

➤ **Manage and coordinate the Partnership for the Agency**

➤ **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance**

- HUD and DOT on the teams for– California; Louisville, Ky.; Las Cruces, N.M.; Montgomery County, Md.

➤ **Create new EPA Office of Sustainable Communities**

EPA's New Office of Sustainable Communities:

- Green Building work to be combined with Smart Growth Program and staff expansion underway.
- Similar offices being created at HUD and DOT.
- 3 agencies already deeply involved in each other's business:
 - EPA and DOT helping with HUD regional planning grants
 - EPA and HUD reviewed DOT Tiger grants
 - HUD and DOT reviewing EPA brownfield grants and working with EPA on Technical Assistance projects.

